

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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## AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—Sat.

NEW NATIONAL CIRCUS, 27 and 29 Bowery—Equestrian, acrobatic and aquatic feats—Slack and tight rope exercises, etc. Matinee at 2 1/2 o'clock.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 35 Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel—Christianity, dancing, etc.—The Broadway Circus.

TONY PASTORS OPERA HOUSE, 20 Bowery—Sings, dances, juggles, etc.—The Broadway Circus.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS—The Old School of Minstrelsy, Ballads, Musical Opera, etc., at the Fifth Avenue Opera House, Nov. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth St.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanic Hall, 47 Broadway—Day Bryant's New Street Serenade—Sings, dances, juggles, etc.—Old Times Halls.

HOPE CHAPPEL, 720 Broadway—Professor Wrenn's Reviews of Mystery and Vision. Matinee at 2 o'clock.

TEMPLE OF MUSIC, corner of Grand and Crosby streets—The Two Fables of the Nineteenth Century in the Grand Old Theatre.

HOLLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Broadway—Christianity, dancing, etc.—The Broadway Circus.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 65 Broadway—Open from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

ART GALLERY, 65 Broadway—Huntington's Great Paintings.

STUDIO BUILDINGS, 70th Street—Exhibition of French, English and American Pictures.

COOPER INSTITUTE, Astor Place—Musical Entertainment of Marion Division, Sons of Temperance.

## WITH SUPPLEMENT.

New York, Wednesday, December 20, 1865.

## NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION.

Receipts of Sales of the New York Daily Newspapers.

OFFICIAL.

Name of Paper.

Year Ending May 1, 1865.

HERALD, \$1,095,000.

Times, 368,150.

Tribune, 252,000.

Evening Post, 169,127.

World, 100,000.

Sun, 151,079.

Express, 90,548.

New York Herald, \$1,095,000.

Times, Tribune, World and Sun combined, 871,429.

## THE NEWS.

## SOUTHERN RESTORATION.

President Johnson, viewing the reconstruction progress being made by the late rebellious States in a more favorable light than the radicals of Congress, is continuing the work of relieving the Southern people of their provisional governments inaugurated by authorizing the Governor elect of Alabama to assume executive functions, announced in the official despatches of Secretary Seward published in yesterday's HERALD. By similar despatches from Mr. Seward which appear in our columns this morning it will be seen that Provisional Governor Johnson, of Georgia, has also been relieved, and directed to transfer the custody of the papers and property of the State to the Governor elect, Mr. Jenkins, thus restoring the Government to the control of the executive officer of their choice.

## CONGRESS.

The proceedings of Congress yesterday were very important, and of a far more than usually interesting character. In the Senate a message was received from the President, in response to the resolution requesting information regarding the Southern States, covering the reports on the condition of those States and their people of Lieutenant General Grant and General Carl Schurz. The reading of that of General Grant produced a profound sensation in the minds of the Senators. It expresses confidence in the good faith of the people lately in rebellion against the government and their readiness to accept the results of the war as forever disposing of the slavery and secession questions, and favors their early restoration to the full privileges of citizenship. The President's message accompanying these reports also strongly advocates the restoration of the Southern States governments to their former untrammelled position. The report of General Schurz was not read, but was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Sumner, in a short speech, denounced the message of the President, saying it was worse than President Pierce's "whitewashing" message on Kansas. He was replied to in defense of the President by Mr. Doolittle, of Wisconsin; Mr. Dixon, of Connecticut; and Rev. John, of Maryland, the debate being somewhat animated. A resolution was adopted calling for the report of General Howard, Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, of his late trip through the South. Resolutions were adopted calling on the Secretary of War for a statement of the numerical strength and disposition of the various portions of the army, increasing the bonds of the Superintendent of Public Printing from forty thousand to eighty thousand dollars, and amending the House resolution for the proposed recess so as to make it extend from tomorrow till the 30th of January. A bill was passed giving to sailors who have lost both feet in the national service the same pension of twenty dollars per month as already provided for similarly afflicted soldiers. Bills were introduced, and referred, to establish a uniform militia system throughout the country, to provide for the defense of our Northern frontier, regulating the manner of the entry and working of public coal lands, and authorizing the President to extend and maintain branches of the Freedmen's Bureau in the lately rebellious States. Notice was given by Mr. Trumbull of another bill of purpose somewhat similar to the latter. An executive session was held, after which the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives the credentials of the Louisiana members were presented and referred to the Committee on the Southern States. A resolution was adopted, by one hundred and thirty-seven yeas to twenty-one nays, instructing the Committee on Elections to inquire into the circumstances connected with the appearance in the House as a member of Benjamin G. Harris, of Maryland, who some time ago, as alleged, was convicted by a court martial of having aided the rebels, applauded the character and cause of Jeff. Davis, and approved the assassination of President Lincoln, and was sentenced therefor, among other things, to perpetual disqualification for holding any office under government. A bill was reported from the Committee on Commerce authorizing every railroad company throughout the country to carry freight, mails, passengers, government supplies, troops, etc., across States, notwithstanding any State law to the contrary, which, after some debate, was passed. Its provisions will seriously affect Maryland and New Jersey railroad monopolies. The Secretary of War was called on for a statement of the present condition of the harbors of the country. A new committee, to be known as the Committee of Mines and Mining, was authorized. The Senate's amendments changing the dates for the proposed recess were non-concurrent. The resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution to prohibit any portion of the debt incurred to assist the rebellion being ever paid by either the nation or any State was reported back from the committee having it in charge, and, after a long and earnest debate, in which a number of members participated, was adopted by a vote of one hundred and forty-nine yeas to eleven nays, after which the House adjourned.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The assembly maintained by the members of the Georgia Legislature when, on the day of their late session, the announcement was made that another despatch had been received by the Provisional Governor from the President is described by our Milledgeville correspondent as most intense. Some of them hoped that it might possibly inform them of their State's full restoration to her former position, while many feared that it contained another demand not in union with their feelings, and all listened almost breathlessly to its reading. When it was found to be merely a congratulation on the adoption of the anti-slavery constitutional amendment the feeling of relief was general and hearty.

A condition of almost complete social chaos is described by our Savannah correspondent as existing in some portions of the interior of Georgia. The country is bare of provisions, the roads are nearly impassable, it is extremely difficult to induce the negroes to labor for any length of time continuously, and both they and the whites are indulging freely in extensive marauding, thievery and other vices. With the professed purpose of restoring order bands of self-styled "regulators" have been formed, who it appears are guilty of worse crimes than those they pretend to be engaged in suppressing. Their shootings and hangings of negroes are of such common occurrence as scarcely to excite remark, and they seem determined not to allow the existence of any other persons who propose to pay the negroes wages.

The Legislature of California ratified the anti-slavery amendment to the national constitution on Monday of this week. Semmes, formerly captain of the rebel pirate ship Alabama, was arrested in the State of Alabama, on Friday last, by orders from Washington, and immediately afterwards started, under guard, for the North.

An account of the recent cruise in search of the rebel pirate Shenandoah by the United States naval steamer Saranac, heretofore announced in our columns as having returned to San Francisco, is given in our correspondence from that city. The Saranac sailed from San Francisco on the 14th of August last, and, after visiting various points on the Pacific and Arctic oceans without gaining any satisfactory intelligence of the object of her pursuit, arrived back at her starting place on the 19th ult., where her officers soon after learned of the arrival of the Shenandoah at Liverpool, and her surrender to the British authorities. By the Saranac our San Francisco correspondent received and furnishes us with various items from the Sandwich Islands of interest to the commercial and shipping community.

A description of the vanishing condition of the imperial caravans in Sonora, Sinaloa and other Northern and Western States of Mexico is furnished in our San Francisco correspondence on Mexican matters. The republicans are again in possession of nearly the whole of the two States named, the only remaining imperial troops of consequence in them being closely shut up in the towns of Sonora and Mazatlan, where they are very short of provisions and other supplies. Meanwhile the forces of the republicans and other republican chiefs are active in that region, and determined to ultimately force the invaders from every point in the country.

In additional letters of our East India correspondent from Point de Galle, Island of Ceylon, given in the Supplement to this morning's HERALD, are presented interesting descriptions of the topography, productions, people, government, agriculture, commerce and climate of that island, and of the coolie labor and immigration systems.

The Colorado Legislature yesterday elected Messrs. John Evans and Jerome B. Chaffee, both republicans, as United States Senators. Colorado has not yet been admitted into the Union; but she has organized her State government and machinery, and will no doubt soon receive the requisite endorsement from Congress.

Judge Richard Busted, of the United States District Court of Alabama, has rendered a decision sustaining the constitutionality of the oath prescribed by Congress for lawyers seeking permission to practice in national courts, which requires them to swear that they have never voluntarily aided the rebellion.

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors yesterday a communication was received from the Comptroller asking the Board to appropriate five thousand dollars for payment of interest on "Bounty Fund bonds No. 3," which was agreed to, and the appropriation was authorized. A communication from the Assessor of Internal Revenue was received, informing the Board that they would have to pay a tax of one-third of one per cent on the stone used in building the new court house. The Board of Supervisors of Dutchess county sent in a copy of a resolution adopted by them, complaining of the clause of the militia law which authorizes the collection of the militia tax in its present form. Bills for work and material used in the construction of the new court house were ordered to be paid. They amounted in the aggregate to forty-two thousand and sixty-two dollars and forty-seven cents. The Board adjourned to Tuesday next.

A communication was yesterday sent to the two Boards of the Common Council by the Mayor suggesting a great saving of time and expenditure of money for advertising, by the passage of general ordinances to cover several classes of trifling cases, such as making small appropriations to indigent persons, and granting privileges for the establishment of apple stands, and the erection of signs, awnings, shutter boxes, etc., on the sidewalk, for action on which, under the present order of proceedings, a separate set of resolutions is necessary in each individual case.

The official statements of the Boards of Canvassers of the results of their examinations of the votes cast in the city and county of New York, at the State election, held on the 7th ult., and the charter election on the 5th inst., are published in full in our Supplement sheet of this morning, and will be scanned with interest by the public generally, and by those who were interested in bets on the result particularly.

The trial of the Strong divorce case was continued yesterday. The earlier portion of the day was occupied with the examination of Arthur Jones, a resident of Spuyten-duyvil, who testified to having seen Mr. Strong enter the house of Mrs. Potter, in Sixth avenue, every second or third day during the months of January, 1865, and remain there from one hour to one hour and a half on the occasion of each visit. In the afternoon Captain Calkins, Sergeant Bill and patrolman Davis of the Fifth ward, were examined as to the reputation of the house in Waverley place. Toward the adjournment of the court counsel for the plaintiff commenced the presentation of rebutting testimony.

Mr. G. W. Powers brought an action yesterday against Mr. D. M. Porter, a lawyer of this city, before Judge Barnard, for an account of money alleged to remain in the defendant's hands since he acted in the capacity of counsel for plaintiff. After hearing testimony in the case and the argument of counsel, the jury gave a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for nine hundred dollars.

An action has been brought before Judge Mullen, of the Supreme Court, by John O. Robinson, against the Erie Railway Company, for injuries sustained while traveling over their road in March of the present year. The car in which plaintiff was seated ran off the track, near the Stoughton depot, when Mr. Robinson, as alleged, received very severe injuries. Damages are set down at ten thousand dollars. The case is still on.

Judge Russell presided yesterday in the Court of General Sessions, the Recorder having virtually terminated his official career in this court. In consequence of a number of jurors being absent the City Judge announced that he would fine all absentees twenty-five dollars for each day's non-attendance. John Robinson, charged with committing a felonious assault upon Henry Peterson, pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and was sent to the Penitentiary for one year. Adolph Jetter was convicted of an assault and battery upon Patrick Moore, on the 27th of September. James Riley, who picked the pocket of Mr. John P. Durfee of a silver watch while riding in a Third avenue car, pleaded guilty to petty larceny from the person. These prisoners were remanded for sentence.

An interesting law suit was before one of the justice courts of Brooklyn yesterday, in which Henry D. Beisenbarger, a composer and musician, sues Mrs. F. B. Conway, of the Park theatre, Brooklyn, for two weeks' salary as leader of the orchestra at defendant's theatre. This case is one of many that arose out of the late strike of theatrical musicians, and when it comes to trial it will no doubt reveal some of the machinery of the New York Managers' Association, of which the defendant is a member. The court room was found inadequate to accommodate the large number of spectators present, and the trial was adjourned to the room of the Court of Sessions. Among the spectators were many actors and musicians, who appeared to manifest much interest in the case. After the case was called for trial a warm colloquy arose between the opposing counsel in regard to an important letter bearing upon the case. The hearing was subsequently adjourned to the 27th inst. upon the motion of plaintiff's counsel for a trial before a jury, a request that was assented to by the Court.

The mild temperature and drizzly, foggy weather of yesterday put an end to the enjoyment of skaters in the vicinity of the present. The ice on all the suburban ponds was sloppy and slushy, and the ball had to come down.

The parade of our Metropolitan Fire Department is an

pointed to take place this afternoon. The line will be formed in Fourteenth street, with the right resting on Eighth avenue, at a quarter before two o'clock, and the procession will move through Fourteenth street and down Broadway to the City Hall Park, where, after being reviewed by the Mayor and other city officials, it will disperse.

Fetichism and "the Irish republic" are both still canvassed around the city with considerable gusto. There were some documents shot from either side of the line yesterday. Last evening another circle was christened after Mr. B. D. Killian, of the old management. The Secretary of Military Affairs has issued a statement defining the position of his department.

Mr. Charles Carson, the proprietor of a public house at No. 356 West Thirty-sixth street, known as the Carson Shadoes, was killed about three o'clock yesterday morning, in his own establishment, by being stabbed to the heart with a sword cane alleged to have been in the hand of Dr. Henry Otto Claus, of No. 361 West Thirty-sixth street. The fatal affair grew out of a dispute over a game of bagatelle, during which the Doctor, who is said to have been somewhat under the influence of liquor, accused Mr. Carson and another man of cheating him. A coroner's inquest was held in the case yesterday afternoon, and on its conclusion Claus was committed to the Tombs.

John McLeod, of Philadelphia, and James Lawney, of 60 James street, during a quarrel about two o'clock yesterday morning, in East Broadway, near Oliver street, fired several pistol shots at each other, one of which took effect in Lawney's arm, inflicting a severe wound. Both were arrested, and McLeod was committed for trial.

James Carey, of 12 Carroll street, Brooklyn, was severely stabbed in different portions of his person by Patrick Collins, alias of Brooklyn, during a quarrel between the two, early yesterday morning, in the drinking place 61 Whitehall street.

A servant girl named Mary Brady was yesterday committed for trial on charge of having stolen over six hundred dollars worth of jewelry from the house 213 South avenue, in which she was employed as a domestic.

Pauline Bohr, keeper of a saloon at 476 Broome street, and two inmates of her house, named Meyer Gibby and Ann Smith, were yesterday committed on charge of having, in said place, robbed a soldier named Hermann Harris of five hundred and fifty dollars.

Mr. James F. Barker, an old merchant, aged forty-five years, and doing business at 148 Front street, where he had been located for the last twenty-five years, committed suicide yesterday afternoon in his office, by shooting himself with a pistol, while laboring under temporary mental aberration, produced, it is supposed, by recent heavy pecuniary losses.

A man named James R. Crawford, while engaged yesterday in drawing some beams in the vault of the store No. 42 Ann street, was severely burned by the benzine becoming ignited, from the flame of a lamp which he carried, and exploding, covering his entire body in a sheet of fire. The fire was extinguished by wrapping a coat around him and rolling him in the mud. It is believed that the accident will not prove fatal, although he may be deprived of the use of his hands.

The fine steamship Fung Shue, Captain Hildeoth, of the Cromwell line, will sail at three o'clock this afternoon for New Orleans direct, from pier No. 2 North river. The mails will close at the Post Office at half past one o'clock.

A detachment of thirty-seven men and two officers of the Third Rhode Island cavalry arrived in this city from New Orleans at a late hour on Monday evening, en route for Providence, where they will be mustered out and discharged. They left for their destination last evening.

A fire occurred at Owensboro, Ky., on Friday last, which destroyed a block of business houses, entailing a loss of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

The stock market was firmer yesterday, and closed with an upward tendency. Gold was firm, and closed at 145 1/2.

Business has seldom been duller than it was yesterday. Both foreign and domestic merchandise were in very little request, and, though prices held their own generally, it was evident that large sales could only be made at reduced prices. Groceries were dull. Cotton was steady. Petroleum was dull and heavy. On Change four was dull and lower. Grain was also declining. Pork was inactive and decidedly lower. Beef was steady. Lard was a shade lower. Whiskey was dull and drooping.

The market for beef cattle this week was steady for good to prime, but the poorer grades were hardly so active or firm. The range of prices was about the same. Except we include Christmas steers, which were very plenty—more than two hundred head being offered—and for which prices ran, say from 18c. to 20c. There never was so fine a display of Christmas cattle in this market, the number of fancy cattle on sale exceeding two hundred head. Cows were steady and unchanged. Veals were in fair demand at unchanged prices. Sheep and lambs were fairly active at about last week's prices, though fancy offerings sold all the way from \$15 to \$40. Hogs were dull, heavy and lower, ranging from 9c. to 10c. The total receipts were 6,434 beefs, 199 cows, 697 veals, 17,456 sheep and lambs, and 14,150 hogs.

Progress and Prospects of Reconstruction—A Short Method for a Complete Settlement.

The proclamation of the Secretary of State, announcing that with his ratification by the Legislatures of three-fourths of all the States of the Union the constitutional amendment abolishing and prohibiting slavery has become "valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the constitution of the United States," marks one of the most important events not only in our own national history, but in the history of mankind. The slavery question, that fruitful source of political demoralization, sectional contentions and civil war, is permanently settled with the extinction of the institution, root and branch. It sought to overthrow the Union in order to perpetuate itself in an independent empire; it rose in the most formidable rebellion which ever tried the strength and endurance of any people or government, and the hydra-headed monster has been literally cut to pieces and destroyed. Slavery, thus practically abolished by the war, is by this constitutional amendment buried beyond the possibility of a resurrection anywhere within the limits or jurisdiction of the United States.

This is the corner stone of President Johnson's policy of Southern reconstruction and restoration. His other essential measures are the repudiation of secession and all rebel State debts, the recognition of the sovereignty of the United States, and the protection of the liberated African race in their rights of person and property. Upon this programme he steadily pursues his good work of Southern restoration, and has so far progressed in the case of Alabama as to direct his Provisional Governor to surrender the local affairs of the State "to the constitutional authorities chosen by the people thereof," believing that this can now be done "without danger to the peace and safety of the United States." But still, in regard to the Freedmen's Bureau, the President, in the execution of a law of Congress, is constrained to hold a military supervision over all the States concerned, whether advanced to the administration of a regular or under a Provisional Governor, and still the work of reconstruction is undetermined, while that of restoration depends upon Congress.

Here we find, according to the radical ideas of Mr. Thaddeus Stevens, the radical leader of the House, that these excluded Southern States have no rights which Congress is bound to respect—that they are in the condition of unorganized territories captured from a foreign enemy, and that the party in power, looking to its own preservation, cannot readmit those States into Congress short of the concession on their part of negro suffrage and of a constitutional amendment basing the federal representation from each State upon the number of its voters. Here we have the secret of the great obstacle in this Congress to Southern restoration. It is the fear of a decisive balance of power against the restoration party. How

is this difficulty to be surmounted? How are the interests of the country, North and South, to be made the interests of the party in power?

We answer, by a comprehensive adjustment in the supreme law, satisfactory to all parties concerned; and such an adjustment, we think, is embodied in the following proposition for a constitutional amendment, which we understand will shortly be brought before Congress:—

Article 1. Every State shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the right of suffrage within its own limits; provided, however, that no person shall be excluded from the elective franchise on account of color, race or religion.

Sec. 2. All persons engaged in the late rebellion against the government of the United States are hereby restored to all the rights which they have forfeited; provided, however, that this shall not apply to rights of property in regard to which legal interests of third parties have intervened.

This proposition, it seems to us, covers the whole ground of our existing difficulties with the late insurgent States. First, it gives exclusive jurisdiction to the several States over the right of suffrage, with the saving proviso that there shall be no exclusions from this right on account of color, race or religion. This puts all races, as to voting, upon a footing of equality, while it leaves to each State the right to determine for itself what qualifications in the way of property, education, residence, etc., shall be required of its voters. Nothing, it seems to us, could be fairer to the States and to all parties concerned than general suffrage in this form.

In the next place, the universal amnesty proposed will settle all our existing embarrassments in reference to rebel disqualifications and confiscations; and, in the full absolution for all the sins of the rebellion, the people of the South, from Jeff. Davis down, will feel that they are indeed restored as brethren in the great and glorious family of the Union.

Let the republican party make these propositions for a constitutional amendment its reconstruction platform, and it will be supported by the administration and the country. Let this amendment within a few weeks be passed from Congress to the States, and before the end of the present session it can be ratified by three-fourths of the States. Now is the time for action, when the State Legislatures are in session or are about to convene. Give us this amendment, and the task of restoration will be so plain and easy that within a few months we shall be fully prepared, with the reunited North and South, to settle our outstanding accounts with England and France upon a simple demand for justice. Otherwise, in the absence of some such arrangement as this, the republican majority in this Congress, in failing to effect any settlement meantime, will have to face the danger of a disappointed people in the elections of next fall for the next Congress. We admonish the republicans of this Congress that a settlement is expected from them, and that against the representations of General Grant and the policy of President Johnson they cannot stand before the people. Upon this suggested constitutional amendment the party may hold its ground.

The British Government on a New Tack.

The intelligence from Europe which we published yesterday contains some curious, not to say startling, announcements. It seems that the British government has entirely changed its tactics with regard to this country, and that it has concluded to concede to our interpretation of the Monroe doctrine, even to the surrender of Canada and her West India possessions, and allowing without grumbling the absorption of Mexico by the United States if the people desire it. The British journals have also changed their tone, and are suddenly and wonderfully friendly to this country, while their correspondents in the French capital are equally complaisant towards us when referring to the Mexican question.

What does all this sudden exhibition of friendliness towards the United States by the British mean? We may be mistaken, but we think it may be viewed as the opening ball of a rumour between England and France—as a preliminary indication of a rupture of the *entente cordiale* between the two nations, and the endorsement of the policy of the United States in its hostility to that of Napoleon in Mexico. In the beginning of such a movement the first and best thing for Great Britain to do is to get rid of her Canadian and West India dependencies. This we already see foreshadowed. If these possessions be separated from the home government they will naturally be absorbed by the United States or fall in line with the other States of the American Union, and as such be of immensely more benefit to the British nation than if they retain for centuries their present dependent positions. Relieved of these burdens, Great Britain can turn her attention to the expansion of her empire in Hindostan and throughout the East Indies, a portion of her realm far more precious than all her dependencies on this continent, including the newly discovered gold fields of British Columbia.

We see in this new tack of the British government the adoption of a new policy not only toward the United States, but toward Napoleon and his programme to establish the Latin race on this continent, with the Mexican empire as the foundation. It will be remembered that when the Latin mouse in the Mexican meal bag became visible the British government declined to go with Napoleon in his movement to place Maximilian on the throne of Mexico. It is, therefore, natural for Great Britain to be friendly with this country when the Mexican complications begin to demonstrate that the interests of both countries are on this question, in a measure, identical. Events begin to look as if England were about to abandon Napoleon altogether to his fate in regard to Mexico. If this prove to be so an entire revolution in the sentiment of Europe about this country and Mexico may be anticipated, and a fixed and formidable opposition be presented by England against Napoleon's attempt to galvanize the Latin race, which has been dead a thousand years, and array it in hostility to the progress of the Anglo-Saxon race. In the meantime the British government should continue its friendly tone toward the United States, for there is no knowing when the kindly offices of this government may be needed in its behalf.

WALL STREET ENDORSEMENTS.—When the Wall street people endorsed the musical notes of Griest and Mario, then on their wane, it was wittily remarked that the endorsement would have done the singers more good had it been placed upon their notes of hand. The same idea occurred to us when we read Jerome and Company's endorsement of Oily Gammon's musical notes. Why, Oily Gammon's paper, with their endorsement, would be quite as valuable as Indiana State bonds.

The Jeff. Davis Elephant.—What to do with Jeff. Davis, Clay and associates seems to be a troublesome question with the republicans.

From all accounts the administration and Congress have, in the capture of those late Confederate leaders, got an elephant on their hands, which they do not appear to know how to take the responsibility of trying them. The President is sick and tired of military commissions, and holds the prisoners for Congress to manage in some way, and thus throw all responsibility upon the radicals. This being the case, why should not Congress pass a resolution releasing the whole batch, from Jeff. Davis down, at once? There could possibly be no harm to the country in giving them their liberty. A republican government like ours can afford to be magnanimous, especially just now, when we have shown to the world the power and stability of our institutions.

There would be no better way of furnishing a contrast with the monarchical governments of the world than by adopting that course. Congress is the body to do it to make that contrast striking and telling. Let Congress pass a resolution releasing Jeff. Davis and associates, and it would put to shame the English for the treatment of the Jamaica insurrectionists and Fenians by that government. It would present such a wide difference between republican and monarchical governments as to increase the moral power and influence of republics the world over. It would show that while the old dynasties of Europe are obliged to administer the most summary punishment to keep their own subjects loyal, we can laugh at all efforts to destroy our Union. Here is an opportunity to dispose of this elephant in a way that will redound to our credit and benefit the world. Will Congress attend to it at once?

THE VETERAN RESERVE CORPS IN A FOG.—The soldiers of the Veteran Reserve Corps when they were in the field understood their business and did their work well, earning for themselves an honorable name; but since they have been posted in our various cities some of them seem to have forgotten those principles of open, manly, fair dealing that should be inseparable from the character of a soldier.

We received a few days since the following letter, which we publish just as it was sent to us:—

WARREN HARRIS, WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1865.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, Editor, New York Herald.

Dear Sir:—I am one of many who have contributed a purse of five hundred dollars to secure your influence in favor of making the Veteran Reserve Corps a part of the regular army. I am one of many who have contributed to the cause of the Veteran Reserve Corps, and I am one of many who have contributed to the cause of the Veteran Reserve Corps.

It is but fair that the service should be more fully performed on the money returned. Your Washington despatches have been favorable, but not enough so. Mr. Woolley, our editor, has also contributed to the Herald's influence. Yours, etc., THORNTON A. WILLIAMS.

Second Lieut. Vet. Res. Corps.

Lieutenant Williams is a very silly fellow, and we publish his letter as a rebuke to him, and a warning to all other such silly persons in the country who have no more brains than to believe the stories they hear as to the conditions on which the advocacy of the Herald is to be secured for any measure.

We know nothing of Mr. Callender. We have no correspondent of that name; and, whoever he may be, he has never been authorized to receive any money for us, under any pretext whatever. Neither has he nor any other person been authorized to make any promises as to what the Herald would do. Nor have any of our Washington correspondents received any authority to enter into any such transactions. Mr. Callender and demand the return of his money, and if he does not get it institute proceedings against that person as a swindler.

We believe the Veteran Reserve Corps to be an organization containing many honorable men; and our feelings toward it are of the most friendly nature, as they should naturally be toward any organization of men whose lives have been imperilled in the national cause; but we do not wish to receive from its members any more such impertinent and exceedingly foolish letters as this from Lieutenant Williams.

AFRICAN SLAVERY AT AN END.—The proclamation issued on Monday by the State Department placed the final seal on the tomb of African slavery in this country. The rebellion, inaugurated to protect that institution, administered the very blow which caused its death. This Providence, moving in mysterious ways, has brought about by war that which without it would have taken generations, and perhaps centuries, to accomplish. As it was in the days of the Jewish bondage in Egypt, the Almighty hardened the hearts of the masters until the very means adopted to retain their slaves has resulted in securing their freedom. Slavery having been effectually abolished by the war, it only needed an amendment of the constitution to secure its final burial beyond any hope of resurrection. That amendment has been made and ratified by three-fourths of the States of the Union. The announcement has been officially promulgated and the last act in the drama performed. African slavery is dead and buried in these United States. It is now numbered with the things of the past. Its tomb has been sealed by the administration and the stone erected in our organic law, marking its resting place. The curtain now falls upon this system in our land forever.

A NEW BOHEMIAN.—The Tribune, Times and World have engaged a new Bohemian to bolster up their sinking circulation. Oily Gammon seems to have given up opera and adopted literary Bohemianism as his profession, and, so far as his fondness for lager goes, he is certainly well qualified for his new avocation.

Mr. George W. Carleton pictures the modern colonial system of Spain most faithfully, and eloquently in a small volume, which does not contain one page of printed matter, with the exception of its preface. The book is named "Our Art in Cuba," and is illustrated with fifty drawings on wood, the designs of which were taken on the spot in the years 1854-5. Under each drawing is just one line of remark, and the whole conveys a clearer idea of the sort of life and government rule which are enjoyed, in the Queen of the Antilles than had volumes been written on these subjects.

Disastrous Fire at Owensboro, Ky. A SLOKE OF BUSINESS HOUSES DESTROYED—LOSS \$230,000.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 18, 1865.

The fire at Owensboro, Ky., on Friday, consumed the block of buildings on the corner of Second and St. Ann streets, occupied as business houses by Messrs. Morris, Blair, Rosenthal, Rothschild and others. Loss \$230,000.

Senators from Colorado.

DEWITT CURT, Dec. 19, 1865.

The Legislature elected to-day John Evans and Jerome B. Chaffee (republicans) United States Senators.

Affairs in Wilmington.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 19, 1865.

Two negro men, John Walker and Robert McKoy, convicted of larceny by the New Hanover County Court, have been sentenced to be sold into servitude for a period not exceeding five years. The sentence is agreeable to the laws of the State in relation to freedmen before the war.

There was a meeting of mechanics to-night for organization to resist the tax laid by the late convention, which is considered not only oppressive, but unauthorized.

Arrived, steamers Starlight and Washington, New York; schooner Wings of the Morning, Boston.

There is a heavy northerly wind. The steamer Cleared, brig Dirigo, New York; schooner Cumberland, New York; brig Hazel, Columbia; and Maiton, New York; schooner Marie Lou, New York; Harriet, New York.

raise the very devil in the Legislature. Mr. O'Gorman had better settle this hash before the Legislature meets.

CONGRESSMEN MOVED.—We are often called upon by government officials to announce the receipt of money from rogues whose consciences would not permit them to keep what they had stolen. Such a case is announced in the following letter:—

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1865.

Sir:—Please state in the HERALD that the Treasurer of the United States has received two hundred dollars in an anonymous letter, bearing date and postmarked at New York, December 16, in which it is stated that "the sum is 'due the United States Treasury Department.'"

Send him (or her) in instant to the Hon. Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury, for payment. Very respectfully yours, J. K. SPINNEY.

Treasurer of the United States.

James Gordon Bennett, Editor New York Herald, New York.

We hope this will stimulate a great many more rogues to send their dishonest gains out of the Treasury to Washington, for the government needs all the money it can get, whether by cases of conscience or in any other